

Remarks

The present Preliminary Amendment is submitted to provide the requisite cross-reference to the parent application on page 1 of the specification, amend the specification and abstract in a manner similar to that in the parent application Serial No. 09/610,364, cancel claims 1-15 without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein, and add new claim 16, thereby to place the case in better condition for examination.

Respectfully submitted,

Hiromichi ISHIBASHI et al.

By David M. Ovedovitz
David M. Ovedovitz
Registration No. 45,336
Attorney for Applicants

DMO/jmj
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
April 1, 2004